

WEATHER.
Fair tonight; temperature about 30 degrees; tomorrow increasing cloudiness.
Temperature for twenty-four hours ending at 3 p.m. today: Highest, 55, at 4 p.m. yesterday. Lowest, 36, at 7:30 a.m. today.
Full report on page 13.

CLOSING NEW YORK STOCKS PAGE 19.

ALLIED LINE HOLDS; COUNTER BLOW IMPENDS

GERMANS KEENLY FEELING LOSSES BUT CONTINUE THEIR FERCE DRIVES; FRENCH FORCED TO GIVE UP NOYON

Teutons Forced to Rush Reinforcements From All Parts of Western Front.

CHIEF FIGHTING GOES ON IN ROYE-CHAULNES AREAS

Pétain's Forces Hold Line of Oise Strongly. British Fliers Demoralizing Enemy's Supply Stations and Communications.

Although still giving ground at points before the desperate German drive, the British and French armies engaged in the great battle in northern France are preserving their united front intact and apparently waiting the opportune moment for the delivery of a counter blow to dispel the German dream of world domination.

Big events are impending in the immediate future, at any rate, and the advice from the front indicate that these are expected to develop favorably to the allies, probably within the next few hours.

All accounts agree that Germany is paying heavily for every foot of ground she has wrested from the allied armies. Her casualties are shown by the British official statement to have mounted so high that every part of the western front has had to be drawn upon to provide badly needed reinforcements for the battle area.

Field Marshal Haig's report reveals that more than seventy divisions, or between 800,000 and 900,000 men, have already been engaged in the battle on the German side, and the widespread call for fresh troops makes it plain that the fighting forces are being rapidly used up in the terrific and costly onslaught. Forty divisions of the German reserve are reported to have been thrown into the line as early as the second day of the battle.

The rearward movement in the face of the Teutonic attack has now brought the allied armies well toward the edge of their former battle lines in the Somme area and in the devastated region to the southeast.

Field Marshal Haig reports the new British line drawn somewhat to the east of Albert and Roye. Paris indicates the French fighting front as extending southward from Chaulnes, past Noyon, which has been evacuated by the French, and then running eastward along the southern bank of the river Oise.

The German troops have been reported as rapidly tiring from their breathless plunge into the entente lines, and they were evidently forced to take a breathing spell last night opposite the British front, as the London noon-day statement reports the fighting to have died down. This morning, however, fresh forces probably had been brought up and the attack was being resumed south of the Somme in the Roye and Chaulnes areas.

It is in this sector and in the Noyon region that the German wedge is being driven in hardest, and it is here, or on the line to the east, should the Germans further expose their left wing, that the weight of the expected counter blow may fall.

The French on their line are holding the line of the Oise strongly. Their artillery is cutting huge swaths in the German columns and the French infantry is making frequent counter attacks, inflicting heavy losses upon the Germans and retarding their advance.

The British evidently are maintaining their marked superiority in the air on the battle front, and are throwing the German supply stations and lines of communication in the rear into confusion by air attacks at close range.

Kaiser's Losses So Great He Draws on All Armies

LONDON, March 26.—The Germans this morning began new attacks against the combined French and British forces south of the Somme.

The fighting died down during the night, the war office reports. The British established themselves in new positions east of Roye and Albert.

The German losses have been so great that the enemy has been obliged to bring up reinforcements from all parts of the western front. The war office has established the fact that more than seventy German divisions (in the neighborhood of 840,000 men) have been engaged.

The statement follows: "The fighting died down during the night. Our troops established themselves on new positions east of Roye and Albert."

"North of the Somme continuance of the fighting is expected, but it has not yet developed. Attacks are reported to be developing this morning south of the Somme against our troops and those of the French in the neighborhood of Roye and Chaulnes. The enemy's losses continue to be severe. He has been obliged to reinforce his battle front from all parts of the western theater. Over seventy hostile divisions are known to have been engaged in the battle."

ARE ALLIED ARMIES ON EVE OF GREAT COUNTER BLOW? ADVICES INDICATE MOVE

By the Associated Press. BRITISH ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, March 26.—There is reason to believe important events will be recorded within the next few hours which may lead to a betterment of the position of the armies which are stemming the German onslaught.

MAY OVERTURN GERMAN. FRENCH FRONT IN FRANCE, Monday, March 25.—Entire confidence reigns that the Germans' last trump in the world battle will be overturned when the proper moment comes.

The allied military authorities were fully cognizant that the enemy's supreme effort would cause a retreat until measures could be taken to check the irruption into the allied positions.

COUNTER BLOWS AT RIGHT TIME. OTTAWA, Ontario, March 26.—A Reuter dispatch received here from French headquarters today says that the news should be read with entire calm and unshaken confidence, and that although the British front was compelled to recoil under the hammer blows of von Hindenburg—inevitably a move that was fully foreseen by the allied staffs—counter measures prepared in advance will take effect at the right moment.

GERMANS BATTLE AGAINST TIME, IS VIEW AT FRONT KAISER MUST GAIN DECISION SOON OR TIDE WILL SHIFT

Kaiser's Reserves Reduced 92 Divisions During First Two Days of Battle.

130 ENEMY AIRPLANES DOWNED IN FIVE DAYS

British Smash Heavy Attack Near Ervillers—Holding Firm on Northern Section of Line.

By the Associated Press. BRITISH ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, March 26.—The enemy is fighting desperately hard against time. On the first day his reserves were reduced to fifty-two divisions. At the end of the second day some forty divisions from the reserves had been put in.

A heavy German attack yesterday about Ervillers was completely smashed by the British artillery fire.

The withdrawal was not due to pressure against this sector of the line. Reports from all along the front indicate that the German attack yesterday was heavy. The enemy advanced against allied gunners who were firing with great effect. Last night British airmen took heavy toll from the German infantry in Bapaume.

No official figures are at hand, but from compilations made personally the war office is convinced that at least 130 German airplanes have been brought down in the last five days.

Little Change in Line. During the night there was comparatively little change in the line. No heavy attack this morning had been reported up to 10 o'clock. The British were still holding the enemy strongly along the line between Comblès and Albert.

The fighting yesterday continued with more or less intensity along the whole line. The Germans pushed hard in the neighborhood of Ronchères, Chaulnes, Estreux, Dompiere, Mericourt, and the direction of Courcellette. South of Peronne our troops have been pressed back in several places slightly west of the Somme, while farther south the enemy has succeeded in making some progress and has captured Nesle and Quesnoy.

"French reinforcements are arriving in this neighborhood. Our troops, although tired, are in good heart and are fighting splendidly, and the enemy is only progressing at the cost of heavy sacrifices. Our losses in material have been heavy, and include a certain number of tanks."

"THE THING IS OVER," SAYS VON HINDENBURG. AMSTERDAM, March 25.—The war correspondent of the Berlin Lokal Anzeiger reports that Field Marshal von Hindenburg, rung after the opening battle, said: "The thing is over. We have begun to move. The first act is ended."

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NEXT 48 HOURS' DRIVE VITAL, SAYS WAR EXPERT SIMONDS Germans Will Break Through or Must Halt to Bring Up Big Guns—Supreme Crisis Now Faces Allies.

BY FRANK H. SIMONDS. The great German offensive has not been checked. There has been a natural slowing down on all sectors, but only along the middle Somme, between Peronne and the big bend of the river north of Nesle, has there been any indication of a distinct pause in the fighting and of successful counter offensives on the part of the British.

North and south of this stretch of river the Germans are beginning to drive deep wedges into the allied line by the capture of Comblès and of Bapaume to the north and of Nesle to the south.

Measured by all past history of great offensives in the west, the supreme crisis of this, the greatest of all, is at hand.

Forty-eight hours to tell story. Within the next forty-eight hours the Germans either will win their great victory and break through the British armies or they will be compelled to pause while their heavy guns and munitions are brought up.

As it stands in the German report of Monday afternoon, the northern wing of the German army has entered upon the old battlefield of the Somme and is advancing toward the crest of the famous ridge, which was the scene of the great fighting of September, 1916. On this front the German advance from the outset has been slower than to the south, and Haig reports counter attacks here which temporarily checked the German advance.

Further to the south the situation is more obscure, but it is clear that the French have entered into line and are holding the high ground before Noyon and northward toward the Somme. Here there has been a very marked withdrawal of the French position on the other side of the Oise and a complete withdrawal behind the Ailette, to conform to the retreat to the northwest.

In sum, the British army, with its French supporters, is in a tremendous predicament. The first assaults have not yet been exhausted and the German troops are still taking ground. The British are still moving forward, except at the center, behind the Somme, which is here a serious military obstacle for some twenty miles.

But if the Germans are not likely to drive the allies out of this position by frontal attack, then the only way to hold the British center out of this, the strongest natural obstacle along the whole battle front.

Crisis Not Weathered. We have then to recognize, frankly, that the crisis has not yet been weathered, that there is still the possibility of a great German success. On the other hand, the British are essential to recognize that up to the present moment the British, with French support in the last hours, have kept a line in front of the Germans, have retreated in an orderly fashion, after inflicting very high casualties and have not great to have covered the advance line with them.

It seems clear now that the British were overwhelmed in the center and on the southern flank by the opening bombardment of the Germans, which surpassed anything known in the history of war. At Verdun the French first and second lines were destroyed by the opening bombardment, then the German bombardment seems to have destroyed three or more systems of British defenses, and to have covered the back communications for around twenty miles.

The prodigious use of gas appears to have been a factor in the British resistance. In this situation Haig plainly adopted the course of Joffre in the Marne campaign, and, while his troops were still unshaken, retired to new positions, making only rear guard stands to hold the Germans. In this Haig's strategy and Joffre's had the same basic purpose. The weight of the German blow was left behind and by contrast the defenders drew nearer to their bases.

Loss by Capture Not Serious. Ultimately Joffre counter-attacked at the Marne, and ultimately Haig must counter-attack. The French command counter-attacked when his troops were back on the last line on which they would retire to—and keep their flank secure upon Paris and the west.

DRAFT BOARD NO. 3 BALKS AT PLAN TO COMBINE RECORDS

Members Threaten to Resign if Policy of Consolidation Is Carried Out.

BRINGS TO HEAD SITUATION BREWING FOR SOME TIME

Centralization Planned at District Building, But M. O. Chance, Chairman, and Others Object.

Consolidation of the eleven local draft boards at the District building halted today, when members of the local board for division No. 3, City Postmaster M. O. Chance, chairman, informed the local draft headquarters that if the policy of consolidation of records is continued the board members will tender their resignations.

With the records of ten of the boards centralized in the District building, the action of the members of board No. 3 brought to a head a situation brewing for some time. Mr. Chance, chairman of the board; Paul E. Johnson, clerk, and Dr. E. W. Titus, physician member, today stood pat in their determination to resign rather than see their qualifications and other records removed to the District building.

Would Interfere With Duties. Members of board No. 3, it is understood, do not believe that they could conscientiously perform the duties of their office in the manner they understand them if the records were removed from their direct control at the city post office.

At a meeting of the board held last week to decide what answer should be made to the demand by the acting adjutant general for the District, who made a request that the records of the board be centralized with those of the ten other local boards, it was decided to refuse to give over the records "in justice to the registrants over whose cases they have had jurisdiction up to this time."

Members of board No. 3 believe that it is to them and them alone that the fate of this war depends, and that the registrants of that division should apply with any information concerning themselves or for any information regarding their standing in the draft, and that the removal of the records to the District building would thus deprive registrants of the board from intimate contact with board members which is their right.

Ask for Authority. Correspondence from the local draft headquarters, at the District building, resulted in the communication returned today, reiterating the stand of the board and asking that specific instructions be shown them from the office of the provost marshal general for the centralization of the local draft boards now completed, with the exception of the "hold out" of board No. 3.

It is probable that amicable settlement of the matter will be made through personal communication between the acting adjutant general, Donohue, and the members of board No. 3.

The central headquarters today announced that the following local men poll report for military service at 8 o'clock Monday night, at the District building, as the District's quota of 35,000 men to be called to the colors during the first few days of April.

Division No. 1. Sam Ismet Behdjet, 733 9th street northwest. Constantinos Lymbaropoulos, 628 I street northwest. John Bove, 1508 I street northwest. John Howe Sweeny, 729 3d street northwest. James Allen Russell, 118 H street northwest.

(Continued on Fourteenth Page.)

U. S. PREPARATION FOR WAR SCORED ON SENATE FLOOR

Danger Confronts Nation From Unpreparedness and Tardiness, It Is Asserted.

AIRCRAFT DECLARED 90 DAYS BEHIND TIME

Senators Lodge and Poindexter Outspoken in Denouncing Conditions in Face of Fight for Civilization.

Senator New of Indiana, speaking in the Senate today, declared that instead of 12,000 combatting airplanes being delivered in France by July 1, as provided in the original airplane program, the number will be only thirty-seven.

A bitter arraignment of this country's tardiness in war preparation and earnest warning of the danger said to be confronting the nation as a result of failure to prepare was voiced in the Senate this afternoon.

A scathing criticism of the alleged collapse of aircraft production was made and the fact was elicited that the production is ninety days behind the schedule.

It also was brought out that the new liberty motor for battle planes may be abandoned and used only for bombing planes, and that new engines for the international board to replace it.

Wants Facts Brought Out. Senator Lodge started the debate in the Senate in an impassioned warning to the country against the situation as he views it, and appealed to the authorities to tell the country the truth as to unpreparedness, and that the American spirit may rise to the emergency.

We are now fighting for civilization, he said, and that the situation is that we are fighting for our very existence as a free people.

He said that as one individual, as one American, he wanted his people to know just what the situation was, and that he would not be satisfied until the people had given their sons and their money generously, the country was not yet equipped for war.

Mistakes Made, But Being Repaired. Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska said that though mistakes in the past had been numerous, they are now in course of being repaired.

He spoke particularly of aircraft production, saying that in a short time the country will know the facts about the aircraft situation.

Senator Poindexter said it was gratifying to hear that the situation was being repaired, and that the country was still getting some information as to the extent of aircraft production.

He said that they are that this country has no battleplanes.

Says No Battle Planes, Is Plain. Senator Poindexter further charged that it is the deliberate purpose of the aircraft administration that we are not to have battle planes at all. It is putting the blame on the Americans to know that their battle front in France is now protected by French battle planes," he observed.

"We never will see," said Senator Poindexter, "a battle plane such as was produced by the French, and the French administration does not intend to build any of them."

On behalf of wealthy and influential persons in his state, the senator said, he offered to the board all the spruce and other material that were there were a fair price.

"I could have got this spruce nine months ago," he declared, "and it could have been obtained for the asking at a fair price."

At this point Senator Overman, democrat of North Carolina, urged Senator Poindexter to state why he was making marks only distress the American people, adding that it was a time when men should work together.

Senator Poindexter retorted that if conditions were such as had been represented, it was the duty of every person to see that they were corrected.

Senator Lodge Rebukes Delay. Compulsory military training was advocated by Senator Lodge, who declared that he had favored this plan before the present war, and now that the nation is engaged in the struggle, he was more in favor of it. He urged adoption of the amendment to the draft law introduced by Senator New of Indiana, providing for the training of boys between the ages of nineteen and twenty-one years, declaring that there were no excuse it would provide a valuable training. The measure, he added, is one of immediate value.

Constantinos Lymbaropoulos, 628 I street northwest. John Bove, 1508 I street northwest. John Howe Sweeny, 729 3d street northwest. James Allen Russell, 118 H street northwest.

No Fighting Planes There. "We haven't a fighting plane there," he continued. "Our front is undefended in the air. France and England have no fighting planes there."

(Continued on Fourteenth Page.)